GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:736
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
SUICIDES BY GRAPE GROWERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in cases of suicide by grape growers particularly in Maharashtra, due to heavy debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): A statement indicating the total number of suicides by farmers as reported by the respective State Governments, is annexed. The State Governments, particularly, the Government of Maharashtra has not specifically reported any case of suicide by grape growers.As reported by the State Governments, the causes for suicide by farmers are broadly crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurity.

To address the problem of suicide by farmers, Government of India has approved a Rehabilitation Package amounting to Rs.16978.69 crore, for 31 districts spread over the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The Package consisting of short term and long term measures is being implemented since July, 2006. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers,improved supply of institutional credit, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities.

In order to address the problems of farmers and for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains in the country and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in Agriculture and allied sectors and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing Agriculture and allied sector schemes, with an outlay of Rs. 4882.48 and Rs.25,000 crore respectively during 11th Plan period. Besides, a number of initiatives, Plan Schemes and programmes including the initiatives/programmes announced in the Budget 2008-09 have been taken / initiated to address the problems faced by the farmers.